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A NEW
TREATISE
ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE,
GLEETS, SEMINAL WEAKNESSES;
THE DREADFUL EFFECTS OF
SELF-POLLUTION.

AND THE
CAUSES OF IMPOTENCY;
Directing Methods of CURE established by
repeated Experience.

By J. H. SMYTH, M. D. and MAN-
MIDWIFE.

The SIXTH EDITION.

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TO

Charles Lucas, Esq;
M. D.

SIR,

LT is with the greatest pleasure I embrace this opportunity to declare the obligations I am under to you for part of the knowledge I have acquired in my profession.

A 2

The

DEDICATION.

The world likewise beholds with pleasure what an ornament you are to physic, and are well convinced how much it is indebted to you for the ineftimable improvement you have made, not only in chymistry, but in many parts of the *materia medica*.

Your success in the healing art is sufficient to demonstrate the refined share of sense you are possessed of; and this success not immediately effected by pursuing the common methods, but by your just and perfect conception of the nature of the human fabric, and the diseases it is incident to, renders your mode of practice worthy the attention of every practitioner.

I am

DEDICATION.

I am not at all apprehensive of being too free with your name on this occasion, your generous disposition in being always ready to patronize any thing for the good and relief of mankind, induced me to think this work would meet with your approbation and protection; and that by this public instance I am encouraged to take the liberty of declaring myself, with the most profound respect,

SIR,

Your most obedient,

And most humble Servant,

J. H. SMYTH.

POINTERS



P R E F A C E.

HERE are some things necessary to advertise the reader of, by way of preface to the following work, both in regard to its publication, and the particulars wherein it is proposed to be more useful to the afflicted than any thing of the kind ever yet attempted.

I am not altogether unacquainted, but it must undergo censure; this gives me no uneasiness; when I began these few pages, I never entertained a thought of pleasing the critic; my study was, to be as instructive to the diseased reader as in my power.

However

P R E F A C E.

However uncouth the stile may be, and as incoherently thrown together, I have made it a point to adhere to candour, with the punctuality which should guide the pen of every honest man. Through the whole, I have observed carefully to avoid making use of any technical expressions, least I might not be understood by the meanest capacity.

As this treatise is principally intended for the perusal of the diseased, and those who have been ill treated, or by taking mercury, labour under complaints better known than removed, rendered it highly necessary for every circumstance to be explained in the most familiar terms.

My deviating from the common tract of treating the venereal disease, gleets, &c. I am certain will be condemned by those who will not be convinced of their error. However, the deviation I really own; for it is not always a sign of being right to follow with the mob. I must confess I pursued the usual method for some time, till experience pointed to me the mild, safe, and expeditious means, which is the cause of this publication.

I would

P R E F A C E.

I would not have it imagined I censure my brethren of the faculty, I mean the ingenious part of them, whose success in the healing art daily convinces the world of their merit, some of whom I am under many former obligations to, and have the greatest respect for.

What the reader is to expect in the following pages I will now give the heads of:

1st, The motives that induced me to alter in opinion from the general rule of treating venereal complaints.

2d, A short account of the present mode of practice; a practice that should be dreaded as much as the most malignant symptoms of the disease.

3d, I have endeavoured to describe the villany of the impostors which reside in this city, who through their pretensions to physic rob numbers, not only of their money without being of any relief to them; but many of their lives.

4th; I have given the learned doctor Astruc's account of the origin of this dis-
temper;

F R E F A C E.

temper, with his observation on the different changes it has gone through since its first appearance in Europe.

5th, The nature of the venereal virus, what parts are most susceptible of receiving it; and how the disorder is divided into the first and second stage.

6th, An accurate description is given of the venereal infection, from the slightest taint to its most morbid state, laid out in such a manner, that every person may be a judge of the nature and situation of their complaint; and how unnecessary, nay prejudicial, it is to administer mercury in most venereal cases.

7th, The reader is made acquainted with a new invented medicine, with its comparative excellence to all other remedies, it proving more efficacious in eradicating this infection than any other remedy ever yet discovered.

Lastly, Some account of gleets and seminal weaknesses, occasioned by severe treatment in the cure of the venereal disease, or by that base practice, self-pollution,
etc.

P R E F A C E.

&c. &c. shewing how the patient is variously affected, and the method of cure, by a restorative remedy, a medicine that has relieved thousands in the most desponding situation.

Thus, reader, I have given you a sketch of this treatise, and am in hopes, that force of truth, and the reflections which men of reason shall make upon the subject, will be sufficient to justify me, and protect this work, which is the result of a long experience; and that the remedies I offer, will some time or other have the preference to all others that are in use, for the benefit of mankind.

A N E W



A NEW.

T R E A T I S E ON THE VENEREAL DISEASE, ONANISM, GLEETS, SEMINAL WEAKNESSES, &c.

THE introducing a medicine to the public by way of publication, is so much the characteristic of a quack, that I should think it beneath my notice. The world I suppose will take the liberty to criticise and rank me among the impostors that crowd this metropolis; this gives me no concern, censure I despise; my intention is to relieve my fellow-creatures, and rescue their constitutions

from *Mercury* and base compositions, the destruction of thousands !

The opportunities I have had when I had the honour of attending some of his majesty's forces, furnished me daily with a number of objects labouring under this dreadful malady, from the slightest infection to its most malignant state. For some time I pursued the beaten path of practice, severe purging, mercurials, &c. &c. and really must confess my cures were tedious, and my patients obnoxious to themselves and others. The ill effects this method of treating venereal complaints met with, and struck with compassion for mankind, was consequently the cause of the deepest cogitations. I consulted the opinions of authors of the first eminence, and by their assistance, and the experience I had obtained, I fabricated a remedy, which gave me more satisfaction, by expediting my cures, and that with greater ease to my patients than the present methods, which rather injure than assist the afflicted : animated with this success, I, with the utmost assiduity in a series of experiments, came to a perfect knowledge of the venereal infection, and method of cure; and having with no small pains acquired this mild

mild efficacious composition, I gave it with the greatest accuracy and speculation, and found it in every respect to answer my most sanguine wish.

However odd and extraordinary my deviating from the general rule of treating this disease may appear, the deviation is absolutely necessary; it is founded on reason, and the result of a successful practice. My enemies, I make no doubt, will give me the appellation of a dealer in nostrums, but I beg leave to assure the unprejudiced reader, that the basis of this medicine is pointed out by some of the most learned professors that ever appeared in physic, though the composition never before discovered.

Before I proceed further in this discourse, I beg leave to make some observations on the present mode of treating venereal complaints. When the injured person first perceives the infection, which we will suppose to be of a mild nature, viz. a running of matter from the urethra, probably attended with a heat of urine, &c. the afflicted person then seeks for a cure, which is generally conducted in the following manner: severe purging and strong mercurials for some time,

until the patient is reduced to so low a state, that he is hardly able to cross his chamber: the complexion of the skin daily changes; the teeth are totally spoiled, and the breath becomes so offensive, that it is next to an impossibility to come within some yards of the diseased person: in consequence of this purgation, the heat of urine may be somewhat abated, and the other symptoms appear more mild; the patient is now assured he is almost well, and the running is immediately endeavoured to be stopped by injections, or some other means equally as detrimental: What must then be the result of such proceedings? The disorder now changes its course; the discharge pointed out by nature to carry off the venereal virus being stopped, the poison conveys itself to the blood, and in combination with the mercury, torments the unhappy patient in various manners; continual or flying pains seize the head or limbs; the eyes become sore, the palms of the hands dry and hot, ulcers in the nose, throat, or private parts; blotches, scabs, or a dry scurff appears on the skin; swellings in the groin called buboes, and many other symptoms, which will be taken notice of in due course: this last symptom, however, is the most favourable, the venereal poison being

being thrown by a critical discharge from the blood on the conglobate and lymphatic glands of the groin, and if properly managed will shortly relieve the patient; but the operation of the knife, or caustics (which, by the bye, is absolutely unnecessary) and being terrifying circumstances to the patient, he readily agrees to have it put back, not knowing the consequences that ensue from this rash step; the infection is thrown a second time into the blood, where it perplexes the patient in different ways as before mentioned.

The diseased person by this time finds himself in a worse situation than at first, and is now probably induced by some pompous advertisement, which daily appears in the news papers, offering one pernicious compound or another, laid out to delude the unwary; I say this bait he readily swallows, and innocently perseveres in, until process of time convinces him his money is thrown away, and his constitution reduced to the lowest ebb; a consumption next succeeds, which acts the friendly part, for in a short time puts a period to the disorder, and the unhappy sufferer's life.

Our patient being now cured effectually,
I shall

I shall next proceed to give a short detail of quacks, and their medicines, which by the following occurrences, the reader may ascertain a knowledge of a set of people he probably thinks does not exist.

A gentleman of fortune who had in his juvenile days contracted the venereal infection, and had reason to imagine he had been unskilfully treated, and that the poison still remained lurking in his blood, sent for a famous Empyric, who, with a boasted nostrum made his appearance within these few years; the gentleman explained his case, and asked this genius if he could relieve him without the assistance of mercury, having been sufficiently tortured with that unmerciful mineral already; to this he answered in the affirmative, upon which the gentleman consented, and the cure immediately proceeded on, which was managed with such dexterity, that the patient was in a high salivation in a few days; not a little exasperated at finding himself deceived, and in such a situation, he sent for this wonder of the age, who declared there was not a single particle of mercury in any of his medicines; but that they were expelling the mercurials that had formerly been taken; wonderful, indeed, must

must be the remedy, that in a few days will carry off, by the salival glands, the relicks of mercury that had lain for years, and probably baffled the endeavours of every rational means! But what was this famous composition that had this singular effect? Seven grains of mercurius dulcis, or sweet mercury, mixed with a little conserve of roses, in the form of a bolus, and given every other night, until the patient was brought into the state mentioned. This story was told me by a person of veracity who prepared and administered the medicines according to the quack's direction.,

As another instance :

Some few years ago a lock in my house being out of order, I sent for a neighbouring smith, who frequently did jobbs for me; on my servant's return, he told me, that this man was sent to prison for debt: in a short time afterwards I met this honest Vulcan dressed with a tye wig, sword, &c. This metamorphosis surprized me much, and when I came home, I enquired of my servant, how the smith lived since he came out of goal? He told me he had commenced doctor, and produced a hand-bill, wherein he recommends himself to the world as a physician of upwards of forty years practice, arrived from Montpelier.

Another

Another method of deluding the unguarded, is also now become notorious; a number of these mechanics assemble together, and publish themselves under the character of a company of surgeons, or Doctor such a one and Co. setting forth the infallibility of their methods after salivation, and every other means has proved ineffectual. Such are the impostors that abound in this metropolis; and is the cause of our hospitals being daily crowded with miserable objects, labouring under this raging malady, yet they find unthinking people credulous enough to believe in their impositions; until woful experience convinces them of their error, when too late. It would make several volumes to relate the knavish practices of these pretenders to physic, whose entire aim is to get money by ruining the constitutions of their fellow-creatures. These gentry I once thought beneath my notice, nor would I have mentioned them here, only that I am sensible it is my duty to give mankind a caution carefully to avoid such a dangerous set of people, and not to split upon the Rock which has been the destruction of thousands. But to proceed.

Having informed the reader of the necessity for deviating from the present method

thod of treating this disease, and given some little account of quacks and their remedies (for which I am convinced they heartily wish me hanged) I suppose it will be asked, What is my method? To which I answer, Mild cathartics, diuretics, and powerful sudorifics; the means laid down for eradicating the venereal poison by men of the first eminence, such as Boerhaave, Sydenham, and many others, whose names I would take the liberty to mention, and insert their candid observations, only that it would swell this piece much beyond what is intended; therefore I shall just take notice of the rise, progress, and present state of the disease.

Most authors that ever wrote on the venereal disease, differ in opinion relative to its origin; the learned doctor Astruc tells us, that it was unknown to the antients, and says it was formerly endemial in the West-Indies; and that it was imported from thence by the Spaniards that accompanied the famous Christopher Columbus in his return from the discovery of the new world; and that it made its first appearance in Europe between the years 1494, and 1496. The doctor also considers the different periods and changes it has already undergone, and observing it has grown gradually milder and

milder since its first appearance, he ventures to prognosticate concerning the future periods of it, so as to give us hopes, that it may in time be utterly exterminated ; but future ages must determine this. It is no ways essential to our present purpose to enter into a prolix detail how the venereal disease formerly afflicted the patient, but endeavour to explain its present symptoms, and method of cure.

The venereal disease is now distinguished by the first and second stage, or local and universal ; in the first stage, or what is called local, the venereal poison is supposed not to exist within the limits of the circulation, but to be confined to some particular part of the body, the blood itself remaining uninfecte^d. In the second stage, or what is called universal, the infection is received into the blood, and circulating with it, mixes with the several secretions, and renders the whole habit tainted. There is great difference with respect to the degrees of malignity in the venereal poison ; in some people it shall be hid a long time, without producing any sensible effects ; in others it will appear in a few days, and discover the highest signs of virulency. This difference depends in a great measure on the constitutions of the persons com-
muni-

municating and receiving the infection ; in people of a cold constitution, the active particles of the venereal virus is sometimes so diluted or fixed in viscid humours, as to be capable of acting but in a weak degree; therefore, when this is the case, the symptoms are of a mild and gentle nature, and slow in producing its effects. On the contrary, when the virus is more exalted, as happens in hot and bilious constitutions, it will be capable of acting in a greater degree, and occasion more inflammatory and malignant symptoms ; but this difference will be greater when the constitutions of both parties correspond with each other. Thus much may suffice for the nature and difference of the venereal virus.

There are several ways of contracting the venereal infection ; a disordered nurse can infect the infant that sucks her ; and on the other hand, if the child be infected, it is capable of communicating it to the nurse. It may be likewise contracted by kissing, when the mouth or lips of the diseased party is affected with venereal sores and ulcers.

It may also be contracted by laying in the same bed with a person who has pocky eru-

tions on the skin, the warmth of the bed opening the pores, and increasing perspiration, the volatile particles of the infected matter are absorbed.

It is likewise caught by handling venereal sores, if the skin is by any accident razed or opened. For instance, a midwife who had a small cut on one of her fingers was called to deliver a woman, who happened to be infected, having venereal ulcers on her private parts; the venereal matter flowing from the ulcered parts was received into the wound of the finger, the infection thus caught ran to a very high degree, and was cured under my inspection.

But the most common way of contracting the infection is by coition. If this disease come from the parents, it is called hereditary; but if got by any of the aforementioned contracts, it is called acquired; in the former it generally breaks out in any part of the body; in the latter it commonly discovers itself first in the parts by which the infection was received. The parts that most readily receive the infection are those of a spongy texture, and covered with a thin skin, such as the lips, the mouth, the genital parts; so that when the disorder is

is communicated by contract, some of those places are usually first infected, and discover the first symptoms of it.

Thus when the nurse contracts the infection by giving suck, heat and inflammation about the nipples and breast are the first symptoms, until severer ones appear. When the infant sucks it from the nurse, or a grown person gets it by lascivious kissing, the lips and mouth are the first part affected : but as coition is the most common way of contracting it, so the first symptoms of it appear about the genital parts. By this we may conclude, where the infection is first caught there it generally makes its first appearance.

Having now considered the nature and difference of the venereal poison, and the different ways it is communicated, and how apt particular parts are to receive it, I shall next give an account of the nature, symptoms, and cure of the infection.

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GONORRHœA or CLAP, called Local :

O R,

First Stage of the Venereal Disease.

THIS generally makes its appearance in a few days after a connection with an infected person.

First, an unusual pain is felt about the genital parts, afterwards a few specks of matter appear on the linnen ; and as it comes, a titillation is felt in the part, which is likewise perceived in making water, and gradually increases to a degree of heat and pain ; as the disorders proceeds, other symptoms follow, the erection becomes involuntary and frequent, especially when in bed, the running daily increases, and is either of a whitish, yellow, or green colour ; the heat of urine is extremely acute, and frequent desire to make it, though with the greatest difficulty, insomuch that it is only voided by a few drops ; a convulsive contraction is felt under the penis, as if it was pulled downward by a cord ; this happens at the time of erection ; and

and gives the patient intolerable pain ; the running is generally more and more plentiful and foeted, not much unlike the discharge from a cancerous ulcer ; phymosis, paraphymosis, chrystralines, and shankers, are symptoms that probably next make their appearance ; the phymosis is, when the prepuce, or skin of the yard is contracted over the glands, so as not to be drawn back ; the paraphymosis is just contrary, or when the prepuce is behind the glands, and contracted in such a manner as not to be brought forward ; phymosises, may be changed into paraphymoses, if the skin be drawn backwards, when it first begins to tighten and contract. Chrystralines are bladders that appear on the prepuce or glands of the yard, which are transparent and red, sometimes of a darker colour.

Shankers are little callous eating ulcers, occasioned by the venereal virus, and may happen either with or without a gonorrhœa. They commonly appear in the following manner : first, there arises a little red pimple, pointed at top, and replete with a yellow or whitish matter ; these are generally hot and itch, and when they break, produce little stubborn ulcers, whose bottom is usually covered with a viscid mucus. At length

length hardness and loss of substance is the most certain sign of them: these ulcers, according to the malignancy of the disease, or the patient's habit of body, have their different appearances; when they arise on the glands of the yard, or inside of the prepuce soon after an impure contract, these parts being covered with but a thin skin, affords an easy admittance to the venereal poison, these shankers are local; but when they appear in other parts of the body, the complaint is of a long standing, or what is called the universal or confirmed pox; when so, they are generally in clusters, and more callous, though probably not so painful.

Another symptom that appears is venereal buboes, these are swellings or tumours that arise in the groin, immediately conveyed to this part by impure coition, or else thrown upon it by a critical discharge from the blood: when these tumours happen immediately from impure coition, in a few days after having had to do with a suspected person, the patient perceives a slight pain or stiffness in the one or both groins, especially in walking; by degrees the swelling increases, and at length there appears a manifest bubo, which is sometimes

times round or oblong; sometimes the size of an egg, and sometimes much larger; but when they arise in any considerable space of time after a connection with an infected person, especially if they are attended with a sore throat, venereal ulcers, and the like, they are certain signs of a confirmed pox. A bubo may also arise from a virulent gonorrhœa being imprudently stopped, or when the discharge is too small; and if those buboes are not timely managed, they shortly bring on an universal infection.

It frequently happens in the first or second stage of the disease, that one or both testicles become swelled, painful, and inflamed, occasioned either by the venereal matter not discharging itself through the urethra, or stopped and restrained by a natural cause, or by astringent injections, &c. or the venereal poison being concealed in the blood, mixes with the semen, and becomes inspissated, and will cause an obstruction, and stagnate in the spermatic vessels.

There is another species of the infection, improperly called the dry gonorrhœa; this
D affects

affects the patient by a violent heat of urine, with a small, or little or no running; sometimes attended with a strangury.

There is another kind of a venereal complaint that is the product of a recent infection; this is a discharge of a purulent thickish matter, not from the urethra, but from the corona glandis, which is commonly painful and inflamed; this complaint was formerly taken notice of by doctor Sydenham, and since his time by doctor Turner, and other practitioners.

There is also a number of excrescences that arise about the anus, sometimes appearing like the gills of a cock, and sometimes make other appearances; sometimes soft, at other times hard; the former generally inflame and suppurate, the latter grows cancerous, especially by using irritating applications, which is often the occasion of bringing a fistula in ano; but these excrescences are more often caused by a confirmed than a local infection.

Having now given a brief description of the principal symptoms of the first stage of the venereal infection, I will proceed to give
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an account of the second stage, I mean that part which will be necessary for the instruction of the diseased; so that they may ascertain, with some certainty, a satisfactory knowledge of the situation of their complaint.

The venereal poison, after having infected the parts by which it enters, may be conveyed into the blood two ways; either by the circulation of the blood itself, which in passing by the confines of the parts affected, take up and carry off some of the virulent particles along with it, or else by the circulation of the lymph, which in its return from the parts that first imbibed the infection, conveys the virulent matter along with it, first into the lymphatic glands, and afterwards into the blood.

The several disorders of the genital parts increase, or become more malignant, or break out again, after being probably pronounced cured, or else arise anew where they have not been before. If the patient is afflicted with a gonorrhœa, the discharge increases, and becomes more acrimonious, and all the inflammatory symptoms increase likewise. If the genital parts, or the anus are affected

with shankerous ulcers, or excrescences of any kind, though these symptoms are merely local, they become more stubborn when supported by an infected state of the blood. The same may be said of buboes, which, after they have been opened, often become stubborn callous ulcers. If a person has a connection with an infected party, and receives the infection attended with all its local symptoms, properly cured, it never more returns, without a fresh infection; but if imprudently treated, which is too often the case, the disorder will return, probably, in a long time after; not only with some, or all of the former symptoms, but a tribe of others. A confirmed infection shews itself by numberless symptoms, of which these are the most common; buboes, swelling of the testicles, shankers in or about the genital parts; excrescences of different colours appear on the skin, viz. red, yellow, livid, particularly on the breast, or between the shoulders; also scurffy eruptions, with hard callous bases appear in the corners of the mouth, and upon the forehead and temples, and behind the ears, and from thence spread all over the head, and by degrees over other parts of the body. In time these pustules are covered with broad crusty scabs of a tawny

tawny yellow hue; and when they occupy the hairy parts, they destroy the roots of the hair, and a baldness is the consequence.

The palms of the hands do now become dry and hot, and sometimes cause dry, callous itching chops, which discharge a thin ichor; when these fissures are deep, the skin often separates from the subjacent skin, and cast off in a thin scab.

The nails of the fingers and toes become rough, uneven, and ragged; and at length inflaming and ulcerating about the roots, they loosen and fall quite off; this is a symptom rarely met with.

When the disorder seizes the mouth, it produces little round, stubborn ulcers, upon the gums and inside of the lips; the whole arch of the fauces becomes hot, painful, inflamed and ulcerated; the ulcerations spread, and eating deep, communicate to the palate bones; in consequence of which the breath becomes offensive, and the bones exfoliate, and sometimes come quite away, so that the patient speaks through the nose.

Pustules

Pustules arise also in the palate, and become ulcers, by which the bones are rendered carious and perforated, sometimes as far as the nose.

When the disorder attacks the nose, stinking ulcers fix upon one or both alæ, or sides of the nose; the outsides of which are generally covered with a hard black scab, which comes away in blowing the nose, and is followed by a bloody mucus; at other times there is no scab at all, but a constant ouzing of a thin acrid stinking fumes. These ulcers often spread, and rot the alæ, corrode the cartilages, foul the spongy bones, and quite destroy the whole bridge of the nose.

Along with these complaints, and sometimes precedent to them, the patient is frequently tormented with violent acute pains in the head, arms and shoulder blades, shins and joints; they generally come on when in bed, and go off towards morning; these are called nocturnal pains.

Some of these pains are wandering and superficial, others of them are fixed and deep,

deep, and greatly resemble rheumatic or gouty pains.

Many unfortunate people have laboured for years under the affliction of those pains, mistaking them for the rheumatism or gout; though, on a strict enquiry, found to be caused by the remains of an ill-cured pox, or the effects of mercurials; yet I have been so happy as to find that by their taking my medicines, they have received the most surprising benefits.

When the infection is communicated by the lymphatic glands, it produces indurated, moveable, circumscribed tumours in the nose, arm pits, groin, and other parts.

The eyes and ears are likewise variously affected with this disease.

The eye-lids become rough and angry, with a discharge of a sharp, watery matter; a dimness of the sight is also felt.

When the disorder affects the ears, it frequently causes a hissing, tingling noise, a thickness of hearing, and deafness; the inward

ward parts of the ear inflame, suppurate, and are affected with intolerable pains.

To these may be added many other disorders, which sometimes arise from a venereal cause; such as heaviness of the head, attended with pain, palsy, convulsions, asthma, consumption of the lungs, jaundice, dropsy, piles, hectic, or intermitting fevers; also some disorders incident to women, as an ulcer or schirrous tumour of the womb, frequent abortions, the exclusion of fœtuses half rotten, or overspread with an universal erysipelas; in short, the venereal disease, in its confirmed state, is of such a changeable nature; that it puts on the appearance of almost every other kind of disorder.

It must be remarked, however, that all these symptoms are never met with at one and the same time, nor in one and the same person; different people are afflicted with different symptoms, but one person is never afflicted with them all.

Thus far, reader, have I given you an account of the different symptoms by which this complaint affects the diseased person, so that you may easily judge whether you are
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at present disordered, or have been ill treated, and there remains any taint of the venereal poison in the blood, or if you are tortured by the baneful effects of mercury.

The medicine I now offer for the cure of the venereal infection, is a composition mild in its operation, though powerful in its effects; it is a remedy founded on the soundest basis of theory, by proving its efficacy by thousands of instances, and that without the assistance of a single grain of mercury. It will probably be asked, Why, I only should be possessed of this secret? To which I beg leave to answer, my extensive practice in the cure of venereal complaints, gave me daily convincing proofs, that salivations and strong courses of mercurial medicines, (by their ill effects, and frequently non-cures) were not only baneful to the unhappy patients, but the method absolutely erroneous, and contradictory to reason. Every man who expects honour or credit by his profession, ought to leave no stone unturned in search of the surest means to relieve his patient. It was my method, for, by repeated experiments, joined with opinions of the most eminent authors of the physical province, I obtained what I sought for; I mean a certain easy method

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of curing the venereal disease, without injuring the constitutions of my patients, which reiterated experience has sufficiently demonstrated.

This medicine is what may be justly termed (by its known reputation) the Specific Drops, a few of which are a dose, taken in any simple liquor; such as a glass of water, a dish of tea, capillaire, &c. in which as much as can be raised on a silver six-pence, of the powder of sal nitri, is to be dissolved: this is to be repeated three or four times a day, taking about every second day a dose of gentle physic, viz. an ounce of glaubers salts, or in strong constitutions, ten drachms, or an ounce and half dissolved in about a gill of warm water; those who cannot take the common glaubers salts, may take in the same form six drachms to an ounce of the sal de signet de Rochel, commonly called the Rochel salts, which is the most agreeable of all the saline preparations. Those who can by no means whatsoever let down a draught composed of these purging salts, the following composition will probably be more grateful to the palate, and sit more conveniently on the stomach.

Take

Take of the infusion of sena, an ounce and a half.

Of the tincture of sena, half an ounce.

Of the powder of jalop, a scruple.

Of nitre, 15 grains.

Of the compound spirit of lavender, 30 drops.

Of the syrrup of buckthorn, 3 drachms mixed.

Let this be taken twice a week, drinking some convenient warm liquor as it operates.

Patients who cannot take a purge in the form of a draught, may use these pills, viz. from a scruple to half a drachm, or two scruples of the pill ex duobus; or common purging pill of the shops, made into pills of a middling size, and to be taken twice a week. Proceeding in this manner, and taking the drops three or four times a day, and a gentle dose of any of these purges about twice a week, avoiding, at the same time, high seasoned and salt provisions, garden stuff, or any violent exercise; I can with the greatest justice affirm, and assure the reader, I never knew it to fail to carry off all the malignant symptoms of a fresh contracted injury, in eight, ten, or twelve days,

without the least inconvenience to the patient ; nor are the cures performed by this mild, and I may say (if we consider other methods) pleasant remedy, succeeded by other disorders ; which seldom or ever fails of being the case, where mercury or severe purging has been the means made use of ; long and stubborn gleets, and often a total relaxation of the genital parts ensue ; disorders better known than cured.

If the patient is affected with phymosis, paraphymosis, buboes, shankers, crystalines, &c. external applications are absolutely necessary ; yet they may be contrived in such a manner, that the patient may conduct himself with perfect ease and secrecy. Many I have daily under my care, who, before they came to me, let their disorder run to a dangerous length ; their situation in life rendering it almost impossible for them to undergo the fashionable way of treating this complaint, which often exposes the patient to the disagreeable circumstance of not being able to conceal the disorder.

Severe purging immediately brings the patient to a languid state ; for as the learned professor Boerhaave says, there is something

thing poisonous in strong purges, which evidently appears to be the case by their operation. In the next place, the taking of mercurials soon gives the patient a most dreadful obnoxious breath, of a peculiar offensiveness; for mercury has often so quick an effect on some constitutions, that a small quantity of it will have the power to immediately affect the mouth; the gums will grow sore and swell, the teeth loosen, so as not to be able to chew a crust of bread; a flux of saliva next comes on, and if the patient is so unlucky as to catch cold, dangerous symptoms ensue, and he is obliged to take to his bed. The mercury now attacks the head, and violent acute pains often seize the whole body, probably attended with a delirium.

As a particular instance of the dreadful effects of strong mercurials, I refer the reader to the following case: Some years ago I was called to a lady of a delicate structure, who had been married about eighteen months, and that time lay in a very dangerous situation; her husband told me, that about half a year before his marriage, he had contracted the venereal infection, though of a very mild nature; having never

never perceived any other symptoms than a running, attended with a small heat of urine: he said, he made immediate application to a certain apothecary, who kept him under a physical discipline near five months; at the end of which time, having still a running, he used an injection, but was assured the infection was perfectly carried off, which he imagined, by the running stopping soon after the use of the injection. At this time he was obliged to marry, at the particular desire of his friends ; and about six weeks after, his wife began to complain of a severe smarting at the time of making water, and also discovered a few specks of matter on her linen ; these symptoms daily increased ; an universal consternation seized the unhappy couple ; he declared that he was innocent, and free from any venereal symptoms ; but in a few days, a small swelling arose in one of his groins, which shortly appeared a manifest bubo ; the cause of his wife's complaint was now easily to be accounted for, that he had never been cured, and had disordered her. Upon this, he applied to a surgeon of his acquaintance, who effectually carried off his complaint in a short time. But to return to the lady, who found herself with child, she could not be persuaded to
take

take any relief during the whole time of her pregnancy; however, being delivered, she consented to take medicines, as soon as the month of her lying-in was expired: in consequence of which, an apothecary was called in, (the surgeon who cured the husband, belonging to the army, was gone to join his regiment); the apothecary proceeded after the usual method, giving mercury hand over head, until his patient was brought to a state, he confessed, " required more assistance than he was able to give;" her head, chaps, gums, tongue, eyes, &c. were swelled to a prodigious size, and the discharge of saliva extremely trifling. She knew no one, and raved incessantly. In this situation I found her, and really it somewhat perplexed me; however, as there was no time to be lost, I began to expel the mercury with as much expedition as her case would admit of, composing her at the same time with a gentle anodyne. In a couple of days I was so happy as to find the dangerous symptoms much abated, the swelling being a good deal decreased, and the delirium only at intervals; in about ten or twelve days all danger was partly over, only the patient reduced extremely low; therefore, as soon as time would permit, I introduced my medicines,

cines, which in about five weeks performed what is expected from a salivation, without being attended with any of the disagreeable and dangerous circumstances; so that my patient wanted nothing now to reinstate her to her former health, but a little proper nourishment.

It evidently appears from the case of this lady, how cautious we should be in giving mercury to patients whose constitutions we are strangers to. In some people a few grains will have the most surprizing effect. I have known a person thrown into a spitting, merely by papering a quantity of mercurial plaster.

In others I have known it used both internally and externally, to a quantity almost incredible, without shewing the least symptoms of salivation. Therefore a medicine that is so uncertain in its operation, can be by no means safe, or to be depended on; moreover, the complaints it leaves after it, are often as distressing as the disorder for which it was administered; as I have mentioned before, violent acute pains in the head or limbs, is frequently the result of taking mercury.

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An ancient writer says, in a dissertation on this disorder, among other cases where mercury has been prejudicial, relates one in these words: "A man infected with the venereal disease, was put under an internal course of mercurials; but after the second or third dose, one of his intestines burst, of which he died."

By an injudicious use of it, whether outwardly applied, or inwardly taken, the nerves are likewise affected, weakened, corrupted, and contracted; whence spasms, palsies, and too great an attenuation of the fluids, which often brings on a fatal salivation, ulcers in the mouth and throat, and incurable looseness.

Mercury judiciously administered, is however, undoubtedly a most excellent medicine: it opens the pores, small vessels, and ducts of the glands; resolves obstructed humours, attenuates those which are too thick and viscid, especially the lymph, and dissipates concretions even in the remotest parts of the body. On all these accounts, it is found of singular service in tumours, swelled glands, & schirrous spleen, mesentery, or

F liver;

liver, ganglionous struma, and other such diseases.

Many singular good properties mercury is possessed of; at the same time, if it is not used with the greatest accuracy and speculation, especially in venereal complaints, it should be dreaded as much as arsenic. And I cannot avoid saying, I have seen more safe and effectual cures performed without it, than ever I saw done with it; for my own part, I have utterly renounced the internal use of it in the venereal disease, (except in some particular cases) which resolution I never can deviate from, while I am so happy as to have discovered a method which is capable of eradicating every species of this disorder; not only with more ease and safety, but with greater certainty, than can ever be depended on from a mercurial course.

In a flight case, I mean when there is only a running of matter from the urethra, attended with a heat of urine, the patient taking the Specific Drops, as already taken notice of, making use of a gentle cathartic about twice a week; the complaint will absolutely be carried off in a few days, without

without any further inconvenience to the patient. As it acts as an absolute antidote, and operates principally as a diuretic, the urinary passages, which are the seats of the first stage of the disease, being constantly kept cleansed, is indisputably the most easy and effectual method of eradicating the venereal virus, without distressing the patient with nauseous loads of pills, boluses, draughts, electuaries, &c. &c. &c. which are not only horridly disagreeable to the palate and stomach, but by their violent operation racks the constitution to an irretrievable state. If we but consider maturely the nature of the venereal virus, and how it affects the parts, by which it is received ; we can no longer be at a loss to conclude how essential a medicine, composed of a diuretic and sudorific quality, is for carrying off the infection. Let us but remark the observations of the ingenious Monsieur Boteau, an eminent French surgeon, who wrote a very learned treatise on the venereal disease. In this description of the venereal virus, he says as follows : " The venereal virus, examined " with a microscope, appears to be loaded " with small spicula, like little thorns; " this, infectious matter, in the act of coi- " tation, is conveyed to either the man or

“ woman : these spicula keep irritating the
 “ tender parts, which is the cause of the
 “ titillation that is felt soon after the in-
 “ fection is caught, until a kind of blister
 “ rises ; this inflames, swells, and at length
 “ breaks and comes to a suppuration ; the
 “ discharge from which is the matter that
 “ appears on the linen; when the patient is
 “ what is vulgarly called clapped. It be-
 “ comes an ulcer, eats and spreads, and
 “ the discharge daily increases, which ex-
 “ coriates as it passes ; and this is the cause
 “ of the running. The urine, which is
 “ composed of the saline, acrid particles of
 “ the blood, passing over the ulcerated parts,
 “ gives the patient intolerable pain ; from
 “ hence is the cause of what is improperly
 “ called heat of urine.”

This ingenious gentleman goes on with informing us how highly necessary it is to administer a proper diuretic on this occasion.

What Monsieur Boteau says on this subject, we must allow he argues with great judgment ; for my own part, the experience I have acquired in treating this disease, convinces me of the certainty of it ; as the medicine

medicine I make use of, and now offer to the public, dilutes and attenuates the blood and other juices, disposing their more serous and humid parts, to go off in greater quantities through the urinary passages, and also to carry along with them the dregs and impurities of those fluids. This medicine is of a texture so loose and dissoluble, that it mixes most intimately with the blood, and so saturates the whole mass; that if any taint or contagion has infected the juices, or lies lurking in the small vessels; this remedy causes a dissolution of the virulence, washes it away from the habit, and is expelled by the urinary channels.

It is a composition composed of such ingredients, whose use requires no confinement or trouble; so innocent, that it may be taken with great advantage in fevers; and yet so effectual, that it thoroughly cures the clap, carrying off, in a little time, the chordée and sharpness of urine, its uneasy attendants, and indelible marks of the taint, which never disappear till the virus is subdued.

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Those symptoms have constantly governed my conduct in the cure of a clap ; while they are present, the virus is in the urethra, and he who prescribes at this time balsamic, drying, or astringent things, in any form whatever, either does not understand the nature of the disease, or puts the patient to the hazard of a pox, that he may have the reputation of curing with speed.

In fine, the Specific Drops answer exactly the directions of the great Boerhaave, viz. it is a medicine that will communicate itself to all the circulating juices of the body, freeing them from their viscidities, and carrying off their impurities by urine ; without relaxing the parts, performing a perfect cure, free from the apprehensions of a pox or gleet, and requires no very particular management, as to diet or exercise, nor no restraint of any kind, except from excesses and coition.

After a course of mercurials externally and internally used, the patient is still molested with ulcers, rhagades about the anus, tophs, nodes, ganglia and gummata ; but especially pains resembling the rheumatic pains, either fixed or wandering, and owing their origin to

to the venereal infection, or the relicks of mercury not propely carried off. In this case I have known my medicine perform wonders; in some, these irksome complaints have been effectually removed; in others, by the use of it, life has been made somewhat more supportable.

A remarkable cure performed by the Specific Drops: some time ago, a trooper came to advise with me: his disorder was as follows; about four years before he called on me, he told me he had contracted the venereal disease, which he let run on him as long as he was able to do his duty; he then was salivated, and all the symptoms went off: in about a month after this, he perceived a slight pain just at the entrance of the anus, which gradually increased to a violent degree, and extended all along the genital parts. This complaint was so intolerable, that he went through another salivation; as soon as the mercury began to operate, the pain was removed, but in a little time after the course was over, it returned with the usual violence: however, he submitted to four successive salivations,
yet

yet all to no purpose ; he also told me he had used the bougies to no effect, they rather increasing than diminishing the pain. In this situation he applied to me; and I really must say, I had but little hopes of relieving him ; but as he earnestly entreated I would consider of some means to abate the severe agony he was in, especially in making water, I began with giving him the Specific Drops ; the third dose gave him ease, and in about three weeks or a month, this complaint, that had baffled all the efforts of mercury, was utterly dissipated. It is above nine months since he left off taking the drops ; he called on me the other day with a patient, and told me, he had not the least symptoms of the disorder since.

Another case, where the singular effect of the specific drops appear, viz. The steward of a nobleman having caught the venereal infection ; by ill treatment it became a confirmed pox, for which he was salivated ; but an obstinate ulcer fixed itself in the throat, which would not yield to fumigation, or any other methods that were tried with it ; some time ago he came to me, I gave him my medicine, and used a trifling

a trifling gargle; in a month the ulcer entirely disappeared, and he has remained well ever since.

Many thousand cases have proved the excellency of this medicine; nor is it confined to the venereal infection alone; for I have tried the efficacy of it in other disorders, and found it of infinite service in the following complaints: the fluor albus, or whites, a disease incident to women. Also the rheumatism, gout, scurvy, and king's evil, in which it answered better than the chain of remedies generally made use of on these occasions. Moreover, I can aver, that this medicine never did any harm to a patient, which is more than can be said of many others.

I must also observe, that this medicine may be taken by women in their pregnancy; so that, in case they are disordered, the infection may be eradicated with ease and safety, without waiting until after delivery; which is often the occasion of children dying miserable objects, and the constitution of the women severely wrecked.

It will probably be said, as it is a diuretic, that it must absolutely be a dangerous medicine to administer to a woman in such a situation ; but, as I have already mentioned, that it is composed of such qualities, that it not only eradicates the distemper, by the most gentle evacuations, but, at the same time, so strengthens the parts, that all danger of abortion, by this complaint, is effectually removed.

Before I conclude this treatise, I will, for the perusal and relief of the afflicted, make some observations on a disorder which generally follows a venereal complaint, where that destructive method, strong purging, or mercurials have been used ; this is a gleet or weakness, occasioned also by that horrid and worst of habits, self-pollution ; which often reduces the patient to so desponding a state as to render life almost an insupportable burthen.

During the course of my practice, having been applied to by many miserable objects labouring under stubborn gleets and weaknesses, and sometimes totally debilitated, occasioned by severe treatment in the venereal disease, frequent debauches, or self-abuse, induced

induced me to consider of some means to relieve them. I tried a number of compositions, until, at length; experience discovered to me one possessed of every salutary quality, which is required for the effectual removing such complaints.

But before I proceed to an account of this excellent medicine, it will first be necessary to explain the nature and symptoms of a gleet; and also in what manner the patient is affected, when the disorder arises from self-pollution:

Brief Observations on Gleets, Seminal Weaknesses, the Cause of Impotency, and the miserable Complaints occasioned by that detestable Vice, Self-pollution, or too early and excessive Venery. Directing a Method of cure established on reiterated Experience.

Nihil est malum, nisi quod turpe aut vitiōsum est. Cic.
Not any thing is bad, but what tends to corrupt or injure the mind.

THE above quotation, I flatter myself will sufficiently authorize, or at least take off any imputation of indecency for my offering to public view an essay on the above subject. As a specimen of my tender regard for the welfare of the public in general, I beg leave to point out the many delusive practices daily made use of by empirics; at the same time recommending a speedy, safe, and certain remedy, which many have experienced to their inexpressible satisfaction.

satisfaction ; the result of which induced me to publish this work, on which, as soon as time will permit, the subject shall be more amply enlarged.—But to proceed.

Of all the disorders that afflict the human body, not any, I affirm has baffled the faculty in physic, more than what I now am treating of. My natural inclination to study, joined with an extensive practice in the course of venereal complaints, has furnished me with a sufficient number of objects labouring under obstinate gleets, imbecilities, &c. arising from different causes ; as to render me not only a competent judge of those disorders, but enables me, at the same time, to form an easy, safe, and rational method of cure, I mean for those whose constitutions are not reduced beyond the power of art to retrieve.

Experience (the established foundation of physic) is the only true path to guide the practitioner to a thorough knowledge of diseases, and the methods of cure. With submission to my brethren of the faculty, they must confess, that the curing gleets and seminal discharges, have given them more trouble than the most acute disorders ;

ders; and numbers who have laboured under the same, by applying to empirics, have been loaded with nauseous medicines; without any effect but that of despondency; soon after succeeded by a total dissolution of the emaciated patient.

With respect to gleets and seminal discharges, arising from various causes, it is necessary to take notice of the different symptoms in so distinct a manner, as to furnish my readers with a proper idea of the several species of those disorders; that they may, with the greatest certainty, ascertain what part of the malignancy they labour under.

Therefore first of the venereal gleet;

A venereal gleet is an obstinate continuance of a running, after all the symptoms of the infection are removed; the discharge from the urethra in men, and the vagina in women, that succeed a virulent gonorrhœa, is comprehended as a gleet, of which there are two species, their causes being far different from one another; the one proceeds from the relaxation or erosion of the excretory ducts that open into the urethra; the other

other from ulcers that remain in the passage, after the virulence of the gonorrhœa has been carried off.

These ulcers are stated indifferently in any part of the urethra, but wheresoever they are fixed, they furnish a discharge of some sort or other; if they are foul, the discharge will be thin yellow, and sometimes greenish, and now and then tinged with blood, especially after a debauch. If these ulcers are clean, the discharge will be white, thick, and sometimes clammy, and the discharge more or less, according to their size and number; if they are few, or only one, and small, the discharge will be less considerable; in the last case, the excretory ducts of the seminal vessels and prostrate glands will be eroded, and the gleet will be partly seminal and partly matter.

This species of a gleet which arises from ulcers, is not attended with the symptoms of debility, as if wholly seminal.

There is another species of gleet that attends the female sex, called by them the Whites, it arises from a laxness of the glands

glands of the womb, and a cold petui-
tious blood, that instead of the menstrual
discharges, issues out a slimy yellowish
matter, not much unlike the running of a
gonorrhœa, and is so near a-kin, as hardly
to be distinguished, and is sometimes at-
tended with such a sharpness, as to make
it dangerous for men to have any venereal
intercourse with them at these times; this
disorder is frequently the cause of bar-
renness, and brings on many other dis-
eases; which often terminates in a confump-
tion.

In the first species of the gleet, the dis-
charge is always seminal, and is occasioned
either by long continued, violent and re-
peated gonorrhœas, the taking of strong
purges, excessive or too early venery, or by
that detestable practice, self-pollution. It
generally appears when the patient is raised
by venereal ideas, in making water, or in
going to stool, and in this case the afflicted
is frequently troubled with involuntary noc-
turnal emissions.

If there be a constant gleeting of the
seminal humours, though ever so small,
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the patient will be but seldom stimulated to venery.

If the seminal discharge be not continual, but only returns at particular times, the cold and disinclination to venery, will be much less than in the former case; but whenever an erection happens, the semen will be discharged sooner than it ought; and the stimulus to venery being by that means taken off, the yard will become flaccid, so as to hinder the act of coition.

And if the seminal discharge be very great, whether by way of running, or from nocturnal emissions; in either case the balsamic and spirituous part of the blood will be gradually exhausted, so as to render the parts of generation totally debilitated.

The complaints that attend this species of gleets, are in some measure similar to those occasioned by that horrid, unmanly vice, self-pollution; a vice shocking as indecent to the ear: a vice productive of the most deplorable disorders, and of so abominable a nature, that I should willingly omit the least intimation thereof, to avoid injuring the delicacy of my reader, had not

a series of successful practice crowded me with an incredible number of unhappy people addicted to this enormous crime, which brought on the most dismal diseases; such as vertigos, or giddiness in the head, with dimness of sight, apoplexies, palsies, lethargies, lowness of spirits, a tabes dorsalis, or consumption in the back; in short, a concatenation of every thing prejudicial to the human frame.

By it the whole nervous system becomes impoverished, with an utter impotence for venereal enjoyments; the health and vigour being so precipitately exhausted, an immature old age must inevitably ensue; the certain result of these execrable and inordinate passions, even in the very bloom of youth: and I assure the reader, with the greatest veracity, that this vice, too early or excessive venery, and the venereal disease, (with the assistance of mercury) increase the bills of mortality more than all the disorders incident to the human body: nor is it in the least to be wondered at; for reason, (which ought to be our chief and only guide) dictates to us, that the semen is the very essence of strength, and renders us active, sprightly, and fit for the different

rent occupations in life ; but when drained of that prolific juice, our constitutions are rendered old, we become languid and pale, the limbs weak and incapacitated to perform their several functions. For instance, if the afflicted walks but a little way, he is soon wearied, and affected with pains in the head, neck, and shoulders ; the small of the back, hip and thighs, testicles, &c. a coldness to the act of coition, and frequently a total inability is the consequence. That great author, Celsus, very justly observes, “ We should carefully avoid making too free, or lavishly parting with, what would be our principal relief in sickness.”—Therefore when we are attacked with acute disorders, we must inevitably submit to their force, for want of the essential supply to invigorate the animal spirits.

I could quote many eminent authors, who all coincide with what I here mention ; but as divers quotations might rather puzzle and perplex the reader, than elucidate the discourse; I have, for the more easy conception of every capacity, steered clear of crowding this treatise with superfluous matter, which many productions abound with; a sure token of a real want of judgment or knowledge in

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physic; as a subterfuge for which, they have recourse to any author to supply their defects.

I shall now add some singular instances, which have occurred in my practice: and first, with respect to the subject last mentioned.

A gentleman between twenty and thirty years of age, who was, from his infancy, naturally endowed with a robust constitution, till he arrived at an age, when nature began to ripen; (which should, at that crisis, particularly be preserved to perfect manhood) tho' by him was most shamefully abused by this too frequent vice, being pointed out to him by a schoolfellow, and which he repeated for many years, till his constitution became totally emaciated; his person a mere shadow of existence, and given up by several of the faculty as incurable; but having heard of my restorative remedy, and its many extraordinary cures, induced him to apply to me: upon my examining thoroughly the effect of his complaints, I must confess I was very dubious of the power of medicine to relieve him; however, by the divine assistance, and the operation of my resto-

restorative medicine, he obtained, I may say, a miraculous cure.

I shall now observe an instance, as well of the bad effects of a too early, or excess of venereal enjoyments: a young man, who had been greatly afflicted thereby, became so reduced and defective, as not to be able to enjoy the embraces of the fair sex for a considerable time, having brought on himself a disorder, I mean that of impotency, of which there are three species. The first, in which case there is frequently a strong erection, tho' no emission; and if any, a thin, watery fluid, and even then in a small quantity; this arises from a more close union than before of the excretory ducts of the seminal vessels and prostrate glands, the natural consequence of astringent injections, &c. &c.

The second species of this disorder is, when the semen is discharged without any sensation of pleasure; the erection being not natural, occasioned by a too great extension or relaxation of the excretory ducts before-mentioned, derived from a gonorrhœa by ill treat-

treatment, the neglect of a patient, excessive venery, or self-pollution.

The last species of this disorder is, when the penis is weak and languid, utterly incapable of erection ; this frequently happens from two causes ; first, when the seminal vessels or prostrate glands are become callous, or filled with fungous flesh; by which means they are but little, if in the least degree, stimulated by the semen that is collected in them. The second cause consists in a paralytic relaxation of the genital muscles, by whose assistance the penis acquires its rigidity and tension. But to return to the patient : I found, on examination, that he principally laboured under the complaints that attend the second species of impotency : he told me, that unfortunately having an engagement on his hands, that frequently obliged him to venereal excesses, and having formerly abused himself by self-pollution, which gradually declined his vigour, till at length he became almost debilitated. In this situation he purchased an empirical composition : a composition set off with all the art of rhetoric to enforce on the public its efficacy ; which, to his sorrow, totally debilitated him ; for having taken a dose,

dose, going to bed according to the directions given him ; in about an hour after, he was seized with the most excruciating pain in the genital parts, attended with a violent priapism. Though great the pain, he bore it with uncommon patience, for by the strength of the erection, he flattered himself he could perform wonders ; which prompted him to attempt, by an immensity of furious efforts ; by that means he almost killed himself, as well as his female partner : he was immediately attacked with a strangury, followed by a delirium, so that his life was despaired of. A physician was sent for, who in some measure relieved him, and he voided from the urethra a quantity of blood and spungy flesh, accompanied with fainting fits. For three weeks he was confined to his chamber, the animal spirits being quite exhausted by a frequent discharge of bloody urine, &c. As soon as these complaints began to alleviate, they were followed by others of equally distressing a nature, such as diurnal and nocturnal emissons of the semen to an incredible degree ; the penis became quite flacid, and a vehement pain and tension in the testicles ; his sight greatly impaired, insomuch that he could neither read nor write,

write, but tears issued from his eyes, attended with a pain over the eye brows, as if compressed by a weight ; and an infinite number of other baneful afflictions.

I gave him my restorative medicine, with the necessary rules for a nourishing regimen, which had the happy effects in about six weeks to remove the symptoms ; the emissions were considerably decreased, and, in some measure, he resumed his former vigour, though he has ever since sustained a great loss of memory. I cannot forbear taking notice of the shocking effects of stimulating medicines, the preparation of cantharides, administered by quacks to excite lust, which they effect by irritating the tender parts of generation, and occasion a stimulation ; but, at the same time, destroys the essential qualification, by leaving the parts utterly incapacitated.

Dr. Quincy says, that in Meckeren's observation (among other strange instances of their effects this way) mentions a man who by taking a dose of cantharides, so inflamed him, that though he had almost killed his wife, who declared to the physicians who were sent for next day, that
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he that night *septies hortum fodivit*; yet he continued even in distraction with fresh rage, until he died delirious. Such must have been the fate of the person whose case I before observed, had it not been prevented by proper assistance. With respect to the various compositions, offered to the public, pretending to cure gleets, seminal weakness, impotency, &c. &c. I have made a thorough analysis of, and always found them to consist chiefly of cantharides, which I think none but madmen would attempt venturing on; for although they excite a lustful desire, by stimulating and forcing the vessels, they pervert all natural vigour, and frequently leave the parts in an irretrievable state.

As another instance of their dangerous effects; a few years ago I was called to a lady who had been married a considerable time, without having a child, and being very desirous to become a mother, and imagining herself defective, was induced to purchase an advertised medicine, which is recommended to the fair sex to cause immediate conception. She accordingly took a dose, and in less than an hour was seized with a violent uterine fever. In this situa-

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tion I found her; and she being of a very delicate constitution, and from what I apprehended she had taken, convulsions and a delirium would next follow, and that nothing but death could relieve her. However, though dangerous the circumstances appeared by my administering the proper antidotes, I was happily deceived in my conjectures; for by an afflux of blood from the *uterus* or womb, the malignant symptoms began to abate, but reduced her so low, as to terminate in a nervous disorder, and it was upwards of six months before the power of medicine and the country air could reinstate her in her former health.

It evidently appears from the case of the gentleman, as well as that of the lady, how cautious we should be in taking advertised medicines, especially without first knowing the abilities of the author; and I cannot avoid saying, it is very remiss in our excellent police not to inspect more closely the published medicines, and their proprietors, as it is notoriously known that this metropolis abounds with illiterate pretenders to physic. Some of these gentry conceal their names and places of abode; under a pretence of being censured for quack-

quackifism, and appoint their pernicious compositions to be sold at booksellers, toy-shops, &c. though the real truth is, being conscious of their own ignorance, do it to shun an examination, even from their very patients; and for mere lucrative views, stab their fellow-creatures in the dark.

I flatter myself, I have now given sufficient reasons, as well as some instances, to deter our unthinking youth, and others, from exhausting their natural strength too precipitately, and bringing themselves to a premature death, which must inevitably be the consequence, by the disorders that never fail to ensue from being too much addicted to venery, more especially from that horrid crime, self-pollution, which must terminate in not only cutting off the thread of life, but, in the interim, attended with a series of such direful effects, as to render them the most miserable objects breathing, sinking under the complicated wretchedness of desperate diseases, without the least gleam of hope in this life, and in a manner incapable of preparing themselves for a future state; for a debility in the constitution impairs the intellects, the very basis of human understanding.

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I have here, without the least exaggeration, pointed out the delusive pleasures made use of by many, setting forth the malignant effects thereof; and, I hope, and doubt not, but those who read this treatise, especially who have addicted themselves to this horrid custom, will know from experience; that what I have asserted is not the result of whim or caprice, but authenticated by the many dismal spectacles, which too frequently present themselves, acknowledging their guilt of such unmanly and pernicious practices; observing, *Parcere noniniibus, et dicere de vitiis.* Carefully concealing names and persons, though treating of their vices, can give no offence, but may be a means, I hope, to stop this abominable practice, as every one, with the least reflection, must shudder at the bare apprehension of the dangerous consequences resulting therefrom. I have endeavoured to render this discourse both useful and plain to the meanest capacity, at the same time avoiding to injure the delicate ear as much as the nature of the subject can admit of; and shall be happy in this publication, should it be a means of answering the desired effect.

As a caution to those whose inclinations lead them to venereal intercourses, they should first consider their constitutions; for let the reader well observe, that one of a robust habit of body, may, with less danger, indulge himself in those enjoyments to a degree that would be highly prejudicial, and amazingly impair a person of a more delicate constitution; and though moderation in each respect, ought attentively to be adhered to, yet it is more incumbent on such, as nature has formed of a tender structure, to avoid those excesses, which their animal system is unable to encounter.

Persons likewise just recovered from sickness, should by no means venture on venery; for as coition strains the fibres, relaxes the nerves, and affects every branch of the human frame, it may by the weakness of the several functions bring on some of those disorders already taken notice of.

He, therefore, who would frequently engage in venereal embraces, ought to be of age, adult, and of an hale constitution; to avoid, by all means, any intemperance that might impair it, such as excessive drinking,

ing, a too laborious, or sedentary life, bleeding, purging, or any thing that would in the least diminish strength; to take sustenance of a nourishing, light quality, using gentle, salutary exercise; and, in short, to keep the animal œconomy as it were in its equilibrium: observing those rules, we may venture on venery to a degree of moderation, which if we find is not succeeded by weakness or pain, we may then rest assured is not injurious; for as a certain writer elegantly expresses himself:

“ The youth who bathes in pleasure’s limpid stream
 “ At well-judg’d intervals, feels all his soul
 “ Nerv’d with recruited strength; but if
 “ too oft
 “ He swims in sportive mazes through the
 “ flood,
 “ It chills his languid virtue.”

To conclude. The Divine Disposer of all things has implanted in us passions for the best of purposes, and at the same time endowed us with a sufficient share of reason (if we give ourselves time to reflect) to curb any impetuosity that might urge us to abuse his great gifts. For it is beyond

yond a doubt, that if those passions are governed according to the Omnipotent Decree, it will encourage us only to use them for good and wise ends; but by giving way to vicious depraved excesses, we lose the command of our intellects, by plunging ourselves into labyrinths, derogatory to the intent of our existence, and pervert the designs of our beneficent Creator; we must then render ourselves and off-spring (if by chance any) unequal and despicable to those, whose prudence and happy disposition of mind have led them no further than the limits of reason, and the pleasures of enjoying a just conscience.

I shall now beg leave to introduce a certain and effectual remedy for those disorders that are the consequence of excessive venery, or that unnatural filthy practice, self-pollution: I recommend to the afflicted a medicine of the most singular nature, which I would by no means presume to do in this public manner, had not a multiplicity of instances in private practice proved its efficacy beyond my most sanguine expectation.

Animated by its success, and every day furnishing me with fresh assurances, what
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a welcome reception it would meet with; it having been tried and approved of by many eminent professors of the faculty, and the continual approbations I receive both personally and by letter; I undoubtedly would be an enemy to myself and the public, if I did not disclose its surprizing effects.

It is nature's restorative; a preparation of a most elaborate process, founded on such sure basis, that its virtues are sufficient to defend it from the calumny of those who envy what is beyond the power of their shallow capacity to comprehend. This medicine is probably the greatest cordial to nature, the whole *materia medica* can produce, and will even at the last ebb of life, afford amazing assistance to the languid spirits. It is an admirable remedy for all weaknesses or relaxations of the body, whether natural or acquired; for it not only fortifies the feeble parts, especially the stomach after excesses, but reinstates health and vigour to a decayed constitution; if in the power of medicine.

Those who by venereal engagements, repeated salivations, or the frequent use of mercurial medicines, have emaciated their

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constitutions, perhaps, to all appearance beyond recovery; also if by severe illnesses, the animal juices are become totally impoverished, that the patient is reduced to a consumptive state; in all such cases it will to admiration nourish, comfort, and revive the whole vital system, and in every degree invigorate the animal functions. Persons who have not the happiness to be so ready in their venereal intercourses as they would desire, and probably from a suspicion of an insufficiency of either party, this great cordial medicine will certainly render their embraces fruitful. It is by these unequalled virtues that it effectually removes the causes of impotency in one sex, and barrenness in the other, with all imaginable expedition; it stops obstinate gleets, though probably of a very long standing, and after astringent injections and internal remedies have had no effect. In the fluor albus, or whites, a disorder incident to the fair sex, which is too frequently the cause of barrenness, and a tribe of other melancholy complaints, it is a most excellent remedy.

Much more might be said in behalf of the sovereign power and utility of this re-

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storative medicine; but lest it should be deemed exaggeration, I shall only say, a trial of it will remove every scruple of diffidence, by restoring health to my patients, and doing honour to my practice.

As a proof of my assertion, I refer my readers to the following letters, the original of which I have filed with many others.

To Doctor S M Y T H.

S I R,

THE benefit I have received from your restorative medicine, prompts me to return you those my sincere thanks for the assistance you have thus given me. My complaint was a total imbecility of the parts of generation (though a young man) which after taking two bottles of the above restorative, I thank God and you, I have entirely regained my former vigour. I give you my free consent (for the benefit of the afflicted) to make this public.

And am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

BATH.

E. A D D E N.

The

The CASE of Captain WEST.

S I R,

HEARING of the reputation of your Restorative Medicine, induced me to make trial of it. My case was a relaxation of the generative faculties, occasioned, I must confess, by the follies of youthful excesses, and a residence, for some time, in a hot climate. However, I have taken your Restorative regularly, and have the pleasure to assure you I have entirely regained my former vigour, and now enjoy a better state of health, than I have done for some years past. — If you think proper, you may publish this,

And am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

Scarborough. OLIVER JAMES WEST.

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The

The CASE of Mr. W. NICHOLSON.

S I R,

I Think it my duty to inform you, that after taking nine bottles of your Restorative Drops, I am perfectly recovered from a debilitated state, the cause of which I unfortunately brought on myself, by a practice I am ashamed to mention.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

Twickenham,

Aug 16, 1771..

W. NICHOLSON.

Some hundreds of cases I could here exemplify, and point out their different diseases, and whence their complaints arose, but least it might offend those who have honour'd me with their confidence, I wou'd not attempt offering to public view a matter of such a delicate nature, without the immediate approbation of the individual.

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I must now come to a conclusion, and hope this work will meet with as favourable a reception as the remedies offered in it have done. So plain a description is given of the venereal infection, gleets, &c. that the afflicted, by comparing their case with the different symptoms, may easily know the situation of their disorder, and the real cause of their complaint. There is one thing to be observed in this treatise, that the reason the venereal symptoms in women are not distinctly described, is, that it would only be a repetition of the same thing over again, as that disease affects both sexes much in the same manner.

Before I close this discourse, I must beg leave, in vindication of myself, to add the following remark: that every proficient in any art, science, or profession will ever meet with enemies, by persons of low and base minds, who, envious of others superior talents, vainly endeavour by censuring others, to impose on the understandings of mankind. Vainly, I say, because their shallow capacities cannot comprehend how easy their fallacy is seen through. Attacks of this nature, no doubt, are made at me by these splenetic gentry, which I

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attribute to the great success I daily meet with from my salutary methods: being confident, it is beyond the reach of such, to injure or prejudice me in my well-known established reputation in physic. But why should I expect to go uncensured, since it has been the fate of the greatest men that ever appeared in the physical province? However, to all calumniators my reply is, and ever shall be, I laugh at their folly, and, with the world, despise their meanness.

Those who chuse to communicate their cases by letter, are desired to be as explicit and clear as possible, and they shall be as agreeably answered.

* * * The doctor's New Treatise on the Venereal Disease, &c. price 1s. 6d. The Restorative for Weaknesses, &c. price 1l. 1s. and 10s. 6d. a bottle, with full directions. The Specific Drops for Venereal Complaints, in bottles, at 5s. and 2s. 6d. with printed directions, are to be had at the following places: Mr. Phidden's, Bookseller, No. 100, Fleet-street; Mr. Cavell's, Bookseller, the Corner of Middle Row, Holborn; Mr. Blyth's, Bookseller, No. 87. Cornhill, near the Royal-Exchange; Mr. Turpin's, Bookseller,

seller, at the Golden Key, opposite Hicks's Hall, St. John's Street, West Smithfield; and at the doctor's house in George Street, York Buildings, in the Strand, London:

To be had also in the following towns,
viz.

Mr. Goadby, Printer, at Sherborne, Dorsetshire; Mr. Pine, Printer, at Bristol; Mr. Trewman, Printer, at Exeter; Mr. Raikes, Printer, at Gloucester; Messrs. Fletcher and Co. Printers, Cambridge; Mr. Carnan, Printer, at Reading, Berkshire; Mr. Seales, Printer, at Salisbury; Mr. Chase, Printer, at Norwich; Mr. Slack, Printer, at Newcastle; Mr. Aris, Printer, at Birmingham; Messrs. Simmons and Kirby, Canterbury; Mr. Pugh, Printer, at Hereford; Mr. Clachar, Printer, at Chelmsford; Messrs. Griffith and Wright, Printers, New St. End, Leeds, Yorkshire; Mr. Monk, Printer of Adam's Courant, Chester; and in all the principal towns in England.

F I N I S.

